

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00 USIA-06
ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 (ISO) R

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-----290628Z 106315 /61

R 282046Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020041

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, CSCE, SHUM, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO AND CSCE

REF: PARIS 2507

1. WHILE WE HAVE NO WISH TO DISCOURAGE VASAK FROM TAKING
AN ACTIVE ROLE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN UNESCO, HE SHOULD
BE MADE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT
SPECIFICALLY GIVES UNESCO A MANDATE FOR CSCE FOLLOW-UP
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ACTIVITY ONLY REPEAT ONLY IN THE FIELDS OF "EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION". UNESCO IS THUS
EXCLUDED FROM CSCE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN
RIGHTS.

2. AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT WAS REACHED BY ALL CSCE
PARTICIPANT STATES ON THE BASIS OF UNANIMOUS WESTERN

DESIRE TO AVOID SUBJECTING HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS AGREED BY CONSENSUS IN CSCE TO REVIEW IN UN CONTEXT WHERE MAJORITY VOTING PROCEDURES WOULD ENSURE RESULTS WHICH WOULD BE NEGATIVE FROM WESTERN VIEWPOINT.

3. FYI: THE VERY NAME OF THE PROJECT VASAK PROPOSES IL- LUSTRATES THE PROBLEM. THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS IN CSCE MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO GIVE THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS A MORE IMPORTANT STATUS THAN THE UN COVENANTS IN THE FINAL ACT PRINCIPLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS. THIS WAS BECAUSE THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ACCORDS MORE CLOSELY WITH THE WESTERN VIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAN THE COVENANTS. THE WESTERN EFFORT WAS SUCCESSFUL; THE FINAL ACT COMMITS STATES TO "ACT IN CONFORMITY" WITH THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION, WHILE ONLY COMMITTING STATES TO "FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS" IN THE COVENANTS "BY WHICH THEY MAY BE BOUND." SINCE U.S. HAS NOT SIGNED THE COVENANTS OR SUBMITTED THEM FOR RATIFICATION, THIS LATTER COMMITMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO US. OUR EXPERIENCE IN UN HRC LAST YEAR CONFIRMS OUR DESIRE TO KEEP CSCE OUT OF THE UN CONTEXT. END FYI.

4. LIKE OTHER WESTERN STATES, WE WISH TO ENSURE THAT UNESCO UNDERTAKES NO REPEAT NO FOLLOW-UP TO CSCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. YOU SHOULD ACCORDINGLY INFORM VASAK AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE THAT WE OPPOSE UNESCO CONVENING A MEETING, OR UNDERTAKING A PROJECT, RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM DELEGATIONS OF OTHER WESTERN CSCE PARTICIPANT STATES OF OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITION.

5. DEPT'S COMMENTS ON REMAINING POINTS OF REFTEL (PARAS. 4, 6 AND 7) WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

6. FOR USNATO AND EMBASSIES IN NATO CAPITALS: YOU SHOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO INFORM ALLIED GOVERNMENTS OF OUR POSITION.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE020041
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JJMARESCA:LL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770032-0673
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977017/aaaaafsx.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1e7e30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 2507
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3639487
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO AND CSCE
TAGS: AORG, SHUM, CSCE, UNESCO
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e7e30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009